



The Pure Milk of the Word

1 Peter 2:1-3

1. 1 Peter 2:1-3 continues the line of thought begun at 1:13. The word “therefore” is a logical conjunction, indicating that what follows is a logical conclusion to what has preceded. What is the context? In 1:23 we are told that we “have been born again of seed that is imperishable.” What kind of change is involved in this? What is the connection between having been born again by the Word and call for spiritual growth in 2:1?
2. There can be hindrances to growth in the Christian life? Peter mentions five of them in 2:1. Define each of them in your own words. This is a good place to do a word study which is essential in the interpretation of the Scriptures. The first step is to study the use of the word in the Bible, then study the history of a word, and its use in its immediate context. Go through such a word study with one of these hindrances to growth: malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.
3. Peter says that these must be put off (“putting aside”). What does he mean by this? Can a Christian be guilty of envy or slander? Paul speaks of this struggle as “putting to death the deeds of the body.” How is this done? Can you identify some change in your own life in any of these areas of sin? By the grace of God how are you different from what you used to be?
4. Next Peter talks about the means of growth, namely, the Word of God (2:2). Picture in your mind the longing of an infant for milk. What is it like? How is this yearning connected with the things the Christian is to put off?
5. Notice that the milk of the Word is called “pure.” What does this adjective mean? With what word is it contrasted in 2:1? What aspect of salvation is Peter referring to (“in respect to salvation”)? Remember, the New Testament speaks of salvation as past, present, and future (1:5, 7, 9, 13).
6. The necessary condition for growth to be experienced is mentioned in 2:3. What verse from the Old Testament is Peter quoting? What is the significance of the word “tasted” (Acts 10:10; Matt. 16:28; Heb. 2:9)? Is Peter questioning the salvation of his readers (“if you have tasted”)? Explain your answer.
7. Why does Peter speak of salvation in the words “the kindness of the Lord?” Look up the word “kindness” and write out a definition. How does the idea of the Lord’s kindness relate to what is said in 2:1?
8. Before you conclude this study pause and evaluate your commitment to a meaningful involvement in the Scriptures. Are you reading the Bible daily? Are you memorizing Scripture? Ask God to renew your delight in His Word.